

Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Eiteljorg Museum

500 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Voting Members Present:

Shannon-Marie Turner, Peter Magnant, Erin Oliver, Kenneth “Lone Eagle” Eagle, Tracy Locke, John P. Warren, Dave Liebel, Joe Moser, Cameron F. Clark, Brenda Summers and Greg Bedan.

Voting Members Not Present:

Sarah Ancel, Chief John Boyd, Nathan Underwood and Brittany Sanders

Non-Voting Members Present:

Senator Randy Head

Representative Dan Leonard

Staff Present:

Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 pm by John P. Warren, Chair for the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC). Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in ten voting members and two non-voting member being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, the meeting established a quorum.

Invocation:

By the request of Chairman Warren, Commissioner Turner provided the invocation.

Review Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the February 25, 2015, commission meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. No amendments were presented. Commissioner Dave Liebel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peter Magnant and all the commissioners were in favor of approving the meeting minutes.

Introduction of New Commissioner

Chairman Warren introduced Peter Magnant who was recently appointed by Governor Pence to fill the final position on the commission.

Review INAIAC By-Laws

Commissioner Clark and Secretary Oliver reported that they had completed an amended version of the by-laws based on comments from the commission at the February meeting. The amendments included streamlining certain sections and updating statutory references. A redlined and clean, updated version of the amended by-laws will be distributed to commissioners for further review after the meeting.

Travel Vouchers

Executive Director Steiner reminded commissioners that they needed to complete travel vouchers for past meetings and events if they had not already done so.

Logo/Website Updates

Executive Director Steiner has been slowly updating the website including the creation of a calendar to organize and advertise events. Chairman Warren asked if a guest sign-in option was available to allow the public an opportunity to provide feedback to the commission. Executive Director Steiner stated she would look into the option before the next commission meeting. It was also asked that biographies and photos be submitted to Executive Director Steiner to be included on the INAIAC website.

Commissioner Turner asked for clarification on the commission's goal in regards to social media. She suggested that the Facebook page include more reference and resource materials. She expressed concern that powwow culture appeared to be the focus. Chairman Warren suggested that each commissioner create a video introducing themselves and informing the community what projects they were working on. He suggested that these videos be uploaded approximately one time per month.

Financial Report

Executive Director Steiner provided account balances and shared that the oversight of the commission operating account is done by the Civil Rights Chief Financial Officer. She reported that the operating account had a balance of \$62, 450.68, and the Indiana Native American Trust had a balance of \$349, 175.00. The total agency fund balance as of April 30, 2015, was \$411,625.68.

Sub-Committee Reports and Election of Subcommittee Chairpersons

Employment

The subcommittee had not yet met and no report was presented. During the meeting, Commissioner Cameron Clark was elected as chairman of the subcommittee.

Education

The education subcommittee reported that they met on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, and is currently studying the areas of Native American college enrollment, college scholarships, school curriculum, and resources for K-12 teachers. Specifically, there was discussion of creating a scholarship for American Indian students who are attending Indiana state colleges and universities. During the meeting, Commissioner Tracy Locke was elected as chairman of the subcommittee.

Civil Rights

The Civil Rights subcommittee reported that they met on Thursday, May 14, 2015, and is currently discussing the use of the R-word in schools, spiritual ceremony in correctional facilities, and geographical areas in the state that contain the word "squaw." Executive Director Steiner and the subcommittee members asked individuals who had an interest in teaching and/or leading spiritual ceremony within the correctional facilities to consider volunteering their time to share their knowledge with those currently incarcerated. During the meeting, Commissioner Dave Liebel was elected as chairman of the subcommittee.

Health

The subcommittee had not yet met and no report was presented. During the meeting, Commissioner Kenneth "Lone Eagle" Eagle was elected as chairman of the subcommittee.

Housing

The subcommittee had not officially met; however, Vice-Chairperson Underwood had been working to obtain information regarding Native American lending programs and availability to Indiana residents. Additionally, the subcommittee had considered participation in the HUD's Office of Native American Programs 2015 trainings. It was determined that the best use of INAIAC funds would be to exhaust all local resources prior to visiting federal training options. During the meeting, Vice-Chairperson Nathan Underwood was elected as chairman of the subcommittee.

License Plate Requirement

The Native American specialty license plate continues to be issued. A required form must be submitted to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in order to maintain the revenue source generated by the Native American license plate. The commission must designate what categories the funding will be used to support. The relevant areas for INAIAC purposes are education and veteran. Chairman Warren suggested that the license plate be advertised on INAIAC social media outlets.

Military Stand-Down Events

Executive Director Steiner requested support from the commission for participation in the VFW's statewide StandDown events which benefit homeless veterans. She requested funds to purchase reusable water bottles, socks, and bungee cords to provide to the expected 1000 participants of the event. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve up to \$4000 in spending for the items requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Magnant and all the commissioners were in favor of approving the spending.

November 2015 Event

Executive Director Steiner reported that she was exploring the possibility of a November event at the Indiana State Museum in honor of Native American Heritage Month. There has been a request that the governor attend the event. Executive Director Steiner reported that she would like to honor LeRoy Malaterre for his long standing support of the state's Native American community. Commissioner Liebel stated that he would research the process of obtaining a Sagamore or similar award from the state.

Indiana Archeology Law

Commissioner Clark presented a Q&A document created by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources that addressed Indiana Archaeology Law. The document was created for informational purpose only. Copies of the document were made available to those in attendance. The document will also be available on the INAIAC website.

Interns

Executive Director Steiner reported that five college students from around that state had volunteered their time as unpaid interns for INAIAC. She had assigned the students summer research projects which they will be completing before the start of the fall academic semester.

Indiana Child Welfare Act, Department of Child Services Presentation

Sheryl Alyea of the Department of Child Service (DCS) provided a presentation on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) including identification of American Indian children, emergency removals, placement preferences, foster families, and active efforts. Specific to Indiana she discussed the state's responsibilities in regards to ICWA as well as the goals and training programs that are offered to DCS staff.

Public Comment

Commissioner Clark followed up from a public comment and questions from Indiana resident Jeremy Turner at the February 25, 2015 meeting. Mr. Turner had asked about plant specimen collection on state properties for religious and ceremonial purposes. Commissioner Clark reported that they are currently creating a process and working on a document that explains the process to obtain a permit for the above purpose. Commissioner Clark expected that it would be finalized prior to the next INAIAC meeting. Charmayne Champion-Shaw announced a project being organized by IUPUI which was investigating stakeholder-defined values of heritage sites. She encouraged individuals who have a specific interest in the value and meaning of the Mounds State Park and/or Strawtown Koteewi Park to participate in the project. Further information can be obtained by contacting Elizabeth Kryder-Reid by email at heritage@iupui.edu. She also asked the commission to consider participating in the National Indian Education Association's Annual Conference which will be focusing on Memorandums of Understanding with states and related K-12 opportunities. Jay Hartleroad requested that the commission address the legality of the state smoking ban in regards to pipe use in parks and convention halls within the state. He expressed concerns that the limitations prevented legal ceremonial use for Native peoples. Scott Willard from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma requested an update on the issue of statutory requirements for governor appointed positions on the commission. Chairman Warren informed Mr. Willard that no action would be taken at the current time; however, as terms expire, the commission would be making recommendations on individuals to fill vacant seats. John Shrock introduced himself and informed the commission that he was involved with the State of Indiana's Bicentennial celebration. He stated that he would forward additional information to Executive Director Steiner regarding the celebration. Morninglark Baskett informed the commission that she was involved in a nationwide protest involving the granting of sainthood by the Catholic Church to an individual that had committed crimes against Native Americans. She requested that the commission support her efforts and take a photo with her holding a sign protesting the grant. Chairman Warren explained that the commission must refrain from taking a stance on issues such as this; however, individuals who were interested could privately discuss the issue with her after the meeting.

Adjournment:

As there was no other business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by a motion introduced by Commissioner Eagle and seconded by Commissioner Turner.